



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLORIDA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO COUNTERFEIT CREDIT CARD CONSPIRACY

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Florida man has pleaded guilty in federal court to participating in a counterfeit credit card conspiracy.

Omar Martinez Suferry, 43, of Hialeah, Fla., pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge William A. Knox on Feb. 25, 2004, to conspiracy to use counterfeit credit cards. **Suferry** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 14, 2004.

By pleading guilty, **Suferry** admitted that he and his co-conspirators bought more than \$7,000 worth of cigarettes from a number of Missouri businesses, using counterfeit credit cards and false identification. **Suferry** met with an individual in Florida in August 2003, Graves said, and in an effort to pay off a debt agreed to travel to Pennsylvania to obtain counterfeit credit cards. **Suferry** then traveled to Pennsylvania, where he obtained at least seven counterfeit American Express, Visa and Mastercard credit cards in the name of Angel Ruiz, as well as a false Pennsylvania commercial driver's license in the name of Angel Ruiz and bearing **Suferry's** photograph. **Suferry**, the individual he had met in Miami, and another individual traveled to Missouri, where one of the individuals showed **Suferry** how to purchase cartons of cigarettes using the counterfeit credit cards.

Suferry used the counterfeit credit cards to purchase cigarettes from various merchants from as early as Aug. 23, 2003 to Oct. 2, 2003, Graves said, including businesses in Osage, Boone, Cole, Pettis, Callaway, Jackson and Adair counties in Missouri. When **Suferry** was arrested in Drake, Mo., on Oct. 2, 2003, law enforcement officers located 36 cartons of Marlboro cigarettes inside his vehicle.

Under federal statutes, **Suferry** could be subject to a sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined

according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lawrence E. Miller. It was investigated by the Social Security Administration, the Osage County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Gasconade County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Trenton, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow